

# Kentucky Energy Watch



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## Letter from the Executive Director of the Office of Energy Policy

On October 4 at the Governor's Mansion, the Office of Energy Policy kicked off Energy Awareness Month with the ENERGY STAR "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign in Kentucky. Governor Fletcher signed a proclamation declaring October 5 to be "Change a Light, Change the World Day" in Kentucky. The Change a Light campaign is geared toward helping Americans take a small step to make a big difference. Through it, we are asking everyone to change at least one light in their home to one that has earned the ENERGY STAR label.

ENERGY STAR is a program aimed at helping businesses and individuals save money and protect the environment through superior energy efficiency.

It is the type of program prescribed in Governor Fletcher's *Comprehensive Energy Strategy* - a program that encourages the development of partnerships dedicated to promoting energy efficiency through education and outreach.

The events over the last month have certainly raised our awareness of how important energy is to our way of life. The storms that hit our Gulf coast -impacted our energy infrastructure and as a result, we are seeing higher prices. Last week, President Bush called on all Americans to look for ways to conserve energy. We know that these higher prices will follow us into the winter months ahead. This campaign shows that we can take control of our energy use to lower our energy bills while helping the environment.

Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the electricity we use at home. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is an easy step we can each take to make a difference for our energy resources and our environment while saving money on energy bills today.

The "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign runs through November. During the campaign, - regional energy-efficiency organizations, manufacturers and retailers will participate by offering special promotions on Energy Star products. Retailers include Walmart, Lowe's, Home Depot, Walgreen's and Target, as well as many locally owned stores.

If each of us works to conserve energy we can make a real difference for the environment and our resources. U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said earlier this week, "Individual action from every American can add up to a tremendous collective effort, and can produce significant results."

Conserving energy and implementing important efficiency measures right now are steps that all of us can take to make a difference today.

Please visit the ENERGY STAR Web page at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) to sign the Change a Light, Change the World Pledge and change for the better with ENERGY STAR.



Jason Bentley, Exec. Director,  
Office of Energy Policy.

Have a nice week.

*Jason R. Bentley*

## First Lady Glenna Fletcher Celebrates “ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day” in Kentucky



*First Lady Glenna Fletcher signs the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge.*

In Kentucky, if each household changed just one light, citizens would collectively save more than \$7 million a year. Qualifying energy-efficient light bulbs use two-thirds less energy than standard bulbs and last six to 10 times longer.

The First Lady joined with the federal government and ENERGY STAR partners across the country to celebrate “ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day” and bring attention to the importance of using energy wisely at home.

Students from three schools with award-winning energy education programs – Glenn O. Swing Elementary, Meece Middle School and Harrison County High School – participated in the event. The students presented the First Lady with ENERGY STAR qualified bulbs for the Governor’s Mansion. General Electric (GE) donated compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) for attendees who signed the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge. Governor Fletcher supports the ENERGY STAR program and has signed a proclamation declaring October 5th as “ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day” in Kentucky.



*First Lady Glenna Fletcher changes a light at the Governor's Mansion to an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL.*

To help Kentucky reduce emissions and save energy and money at the same time, First Lady Glenna Fletcher encouraged Kentuckians to celebrate Wednesday, October 5th, as “ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day,” with a pledge to change one light at home to an energy-efficient model.

Kentuckians are encouraged to switch to light fixtures or bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR label, which designates products that prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

“Lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the electricity we use at home,” said Mrs. Fletcher. “Switching to energy-efficient lighting is an easy step we can take to make a difference for our energy resources and our environment, while saving money on energy bills today. I am asking you to take the ENERGY STAR Change a Light Pledge with me.”

Kentucky residents can take the pledge at [www.energystar.gov/changealight](http://www.energystar.gov/changealight).





*First Lady Glenna Fletcher and KOEP Executive Director Jason Bentley with students from Meece Middle School.*



This commemorative day is the official kickoff of the national "Change a Light, Change the World" educational campaign, led by the federal government. The campaign encourages Americans to take a simple action, switching to energy-efficient lighting, to help preserve our energy resources and protect our environment. The national educational campaign is run in partnership with hundreds of retail stores, manufacturers, energy efficiency organizations and state governments. The campaign takes place each October, during Energy Awareness Month.

ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping businesses and individuals protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. Energy-efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill without sacrificing features, style or comfort. ENERGY STAR helps you make the energy-efficient choice.

For more information about energy efficiency, visit the Office of Energy Policy's Web site at [www.energy.ky.gov](http://www.energy.ky.gov). For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

*First Lady Glenna Fletcher and KOEP Executive Director Jason Bentley with students from Glenn O. Swing Elementary School.*



*First Lady Glenna Fletcher and KOEP Executive Director Jason Bentley with students from Harrison County High School.*



## Media Excerpts: A snapshot of state and national energy issues\*

**Gas heat bills to soar 64% - LG&E files for increase to take effect Nov. 1.** Hurricane Katrina blew in \$3 a gallon gasoline. Now come the heating bills. Louisville Gas & Electric Co. told Kentucky regulators yesterday it needs to pass along higher natural gas prices from its suppliers. The typical gas customer who spreads the bill over 12 months would see the monthly average rise 64 percent, from \$88 to \$144, the company said. The increase, expected to take effect Nov. 1, stems partly from Katrina's damage to gas-producing and distributing equipment on the Gulf Coast. But prices were already about 50 percent higher from a year earlier before the storms because of concerns about gas supplies for the winter. Nationally, experts expect prices to rise by about 77 percent, LG&E spokeswoman Laura Douglas said. "The entire nation is going to be facing these significant gas price increases as we go into winter heating season," Douglas said. ("Gas heat bills to soar 64%," *Courier-Journal*, 9/30/05)

**Calls for energy audits leap.** Two weeks ago, the home-energy auditors at Louisville Gas & Electric Co. were as lonely as the Maytag repairman. No customers were scheduled for the home checkups that look for ways to cut their heating and cooling bills. After news of a steep increase in natural gas prices on the way for the winter, requests for the audits began flooding in. About 600 people are on a waiting list for the \$15 inspections, and LG&E plans to hire more auditors to meet the need. "Apparently people have been reading all the information in the press about what's going on with natural gas prices, and they've decided they're going to engage in a little bit of self-help," LG&E spokeswoman Laura Douglas said yesterday. ("Calls for energy audits leap," *Courier-Journal*, 10/1/05)

**Columbia Gas seeks rate hike.** Columbia Gas of Kentucky has requested permission from the Kentucky Public Service Commission to hike the price for natural gas by 30 percent, company officials announced Monday. The move would raise the current charge of \$9.40 per 1,000 cubic feet to \$12.30. Pending approval by the PSC, the new price would take effect Oct. 27 and remain in effect until Columbia's regular quarterly adjustment for December, company officials said. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, along with other recent events have caused a spike in natural gas prices, officials said. Columbia and other local distribution companies have filed for adjustments in response to the changing market conditions, officials said. ("Columbia Gas seeks rate hike," *Winchester Sun*, 10/4/05)

**Six more months of gasoline pain?** Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman has told a newspaper that consumers can expect to see at least six months of high gasoline and heating fuel prices until energy production recovers from hurricane damage. "We're going to go through a very challenging time the next six months, is my guess," Bodman told *USA Today* in an interview published Monday. "Both in terms of gasoline availability and (prices of) natural gas and heating oil, we're going to have some problems." Bodman warned he didn't yet know the extent of damage done by Hurricane Rita to offshore oil and natural gas platforms as well as Gulf Coast refineries and pipelines, telling the paper it would take two to three more weeks to complete an assessment. But he suggested there could be shortages depending on the extent of damage. ("Six more months of gasoline pain?," *CNN*, 10/3/05)

**First Lady Glenna Fletcher Celebrates "ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day" in Kentucky.** To help Kentucky reduce emissions and save energy and money at the same time, First Lady Glenna Fletcher is encouraging Kentuckians to celebrate Wednesday, October 5th, as "ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World Day," with a pledge to change one light at home to an energy-efficient model. Kentuckians are encouraged to switch to light fixtures or bulbs that have earned the ENERGY STAR label, which designates products that prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency criteria set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. (KOEP News Release, 10/4/05)

**White House renews call for conservation.** The Bush administration yesterday launched a campaign to urge Americans to conserve energy in homes and businesses as a way to combat high costs this winter. Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman said at a news conference that consumers could take basic steps to reduce energy consumption and lower costs, including driving 55 miles per hour instead of 65, insulating their houses and keeping their thermostats set at a lower temperature when they are away this winter. ("White House renews call for conservation," *Washington Post*, 10/4/05)

**Consumer tax credits for hybrids and home energy efficiency purchases.** You, too, can get some of the \$14 billion in tax breaks in the energy bill that President Bush signed into law in August. No, you won't qualify for billions or even millions - that's for the energy industry. But consumers concerned about energy costs and striving for efficiency could write several thousand dollars off their federal income tax. Here's how the credits work: Buy or lease a hybrid gas-electric vehicle and qualify for a tax credit of up to \$3,400. Install solar power in your home and get up to a \$4,000 tax credit. Make your home more energy efficient and get credits ranging from \$50 to \$500. Shopping for appliances? Certain energy efficient refrigerators qualify for a tax credit of up to \$175, while dishwashers and clothes washers can get up to \$100. There are also credits for insulation, metal roofs coated with heat-reducing pigments and energy-efficient windows, doors and skylights. Consumers installing solar power can get two separate credits in 2006 and 2007 - each worth up to \$2,000. One is for installing photovoltaic cells, which help power electricity in the home and can cost \$25,000 to install. The other credit is for solar-powered hot water systems, which can cost up to \$5,000. Don't go shopping yet - purchases and home improvements don't qualify until 2006. ("Want a cut of the \$14 billion in energy law?" *MSNBC*, 10/5/05)

**EKPC officials considering locations in Clark County for transmission lines.** East Kentucky Power Cooperative is considering a 75-square-mile swath of land in eastern Clark County as a possible location for power lines to extend from its J.K. Smith Station in Trapp to western Montgomery County. A smaller tract of land in southern Clark County also is on the table for lines spanning toward Lincoln County from the new 278-megawatt coal-fired power plant to be constructed at Smith Station. EKPC officials say the plans represent a preliminary study of low-impact routes and certain compromises with property owners will be considered. ("EKPC officials considering locations in Clark County for transmission lines," *Winchester Sun*, 10/4/05)

\*These are media summaries. Please consult the source directly to ensure the accuracy of the information presented. Underlined titles are links to online articles in their entirety.

## Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	10/05/05	09/28/05	09/21/05	09/14/05	Year Ago
Propane	1.909	-	-	-	1.548
Heating Oil	2.837	-	-	-	1.736
Gasoline (State avg.)	2.912	2.757	2.674	2.833	1.889
Ashland	2.852	2.765	2.769	2.844	1.952
Covington	2.933	2.769	2.739	2.869	1.965
Lexington	2.870	2.704	2.596	2.780	1.892
Louisville	2.852	2.700	2.644	2.796	1.864
Owensboro	2.915	2.799	2.623	2.849	1.939
Diesel (State avg.)	3.147	2.810	2.715	2.771	1.985
Ashland	3.198	2.793	2.737	2.761	1.991
Covington	3.132	2.744	2.716	2.728	1.986
Lexington	3.168	2.811	2.676	2.728	2.001
Louisville	3.147	2.837	2.672	2.708	1.986
Owensboro	3.190	2.817	2.769	2.857	1.979

**Note:** The record high average price for gasoline in Kentucky is \$3.049 and occurred on Sept. 3, 2005.

**Source:** Propane and Heating Oil: KDRE3/EIA Survey, [Weekly Petroleum Status Report, Appendix C](#)

Gasoline (unleaded regular) & Diesel: National AAA, <http://www.fuelgaugereport.com/KYavg.asp>

## Wholesale Fuel Prices

Spot Prices	10/03/05	09/27/05	09/20/05	09/13/05	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)	65.48	65.07	66.24	63.12	51.10
West Texas Intermediate, fob					
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)	14.20	14.70	12.64	10.75	6.090
Henry-Hub					

**Source:** [NYMEX closing price](#)

Futures		Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel)	10/05/05	-	62.79	62.69
Light Sweet Crude Oil	09/28/05	-	66.35	66.46
	09/21/05	-	66.80	66.79
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu)	10/05/05	-	14.183	14.731
Henry-Hub	09/28/05	13.907	14.100	14.570
	09/21/05	12.594	12.998	13.463
Propane (Cents per gallon)	10/05/05	-	116.50	117.00
	09/28/05	118.25	118.25	118.75
	09/21/05	118.00	118.00	118.50
Coal (Dollars per ton)	10/05/05	-	56.00	-
Central Appalachian	09/27/05	55.90	-	-
	09/21/05	56.40	-	-

**Source:** [NYMEX closing price](#) and [EIA Coal Futures](#)

## For more information, contact John Davies, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy:

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